



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 408

Chairperson: DiAnna R. Schimek
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 9, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 408 would provide for the receipt and return of absentee ballots by electronic means for those covered by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act. Nebraska citizens overseas either in military service or civilian capacity would be entitled to receive and return their absentee ballot by transmission means authorized by the Secretary of State. These means could include facsimile, electronic mail (e-mail), online voting through the Department of Defense, or other methods.

This change will significantly reduce the transit time of absentee ballot to and from the voter, ensuring that more Nebraska citizens will have the right to cast a ballot which arrives in time to be counted. This bill allows the Chief Election Official of the state to be proactive and flexible with regard to the needs of military and overseas voters, as well as stay up-to-date with emerging technologies in voting.

The measure also provides the children of UOCAVA qualified citizens the right to register in the same Nebraska jurisdiction as their parents even if they have not lived in the United States. Currently, Nebraska statute does not allow for the registration of these citizens. This provision would allow these children to register and vote if they have a parent already registered to vote in Nebraska.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Mike Flood